

Appl. No. 10/635,249
Docket No. 8556C
Amdt. dated August 21, 2008
Reply to Office Action mailed on July 25, 2008
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Claim Status

Before entry of this Amendment, claims 12-14 and 16-20 were pending in the present application. Claims 17, 19, and 20 are cancelled herein. Thus, subsequent to entry of this Amendment, claims 12-14, 16, and 18 will be pending. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

Claim 18 is amended herein to be rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of formerly pending base claim 17. It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, claims 12-14 and 16 are allowed. Claim 18 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As discussed above, dependent claim 18 is rewritten in independent form to incorporate the limitations of previously pending independent base claim 17.

Therefore, it is believed that claims 12-14, 16, and 18 are in form for allowance and such indication is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, claims 17, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,236,428 to Zajackowski (hereinafter "Zajackowski") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,681,298 to Brunner et al. (hereinafter "Brunner").

Although the rejections are not agreed with, claims 17, 19, and 20 are cancelled herein in an effort to move prosecution of the present application toward allowance. Thus, the rejections of claims 17, 19, and 20 are rendered moot.

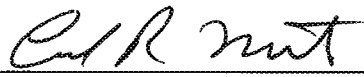
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III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of this application and indication of allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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